

Subject: George II Indian Peace medal

Roberts, C. B.

1931

[40 Wall St.]

*Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft*  
(Strong & Cadwalader)

*George W. Wickersham  
Henry W. Taft  
Francis Smyth  
Wm Lloyd Kitchel  
Cornelius W. Wickersham  
George Coggill  
Walbridge L. Taft  
Robert Le Roy  
J. Forrest Butterworth Jr.  
De Coursey Fales  
Sidney P. Henshaw  
Thomas B. Gilchrist  
Merrill M. Manning  
F. Sims. W. Grath  
Edward J. Hancy*

*40 Wall Street  
New York*

*Telephone Andrews 7900  
Cable Address Labellum*

October 1, 1931.

Edward T. Newell, Esq.,  
American Numismatic Society.

Dear Sir :

If it would not require any considerable time or occasion some trouble may I ask if you would be so good as advise me, if the information is at your command, in regard to a certain silver medal struck or cast during the reign of George II of England?

The medal, which is circular and about the size of the American silver dollar, presents the profile bust of George II, facing left, with the annular inscription "Georgius II- D.G. Mag: Bri: Fra: Et IR: Rex F.D."; the reverse bears the royal arms of Great Britain, with the lion and unicorn and shield, the latter encircled by the Garter, which has, around, the motto of the Order, "Honi soit qui mal y pense". In the exergue is the motto, "Dieu et mon droit".

I should especially like to know under what class of medals this one falls; that is, what it is termed, and what occasioned its issuance.

The particular medal which prompts this letter would seem to have been given by George III to one of three Cherokee Indian chiefs who visited England in 1762 accompanied by Lieutenant Henry Timberlake.

Any information which you may be able to give on the subject I should deeply appreciate--and permit me to thank you beforehand for your kind reply.

Yours, very truly,

*C. B. Roberts*

(CBRoberts)

Sir Danvers Osborne Lord J. J. J.  
in 1753 Bought 30 of these from  
England for presents to the  
6 Nations



November 9, 1931.

Mr. C. B. Roberts  
40 Wall Street  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter to Mr. Newell of October 1st was turned over to me only the other day. The medal you write about is presumably from your description a cast medal, one and three quarter inches. Little is known about it in England and the only information we have is that Sir Danvers Osburne, Governor of New York in 1753 brought thirty of these from England for presents to the six nations. Two or three only are known today and are considered rare.

As these medals were given to Indians, they fall in the series known as "Indian Peace Medals". The French kings gave such medals out in their American possessions and the English did likewise, though not to much of any extent, at the time of George III.

Our government from the time of Washington through Benjamin Harrison presented a great number of silver medals of special design to Indians, not only at the conclusion of peace treaties but of visits of Indians to Washington, and leaders of expeditions in the old days often were supplied with such medals. In other words, they were distributed where it was thought they would do the most good. We have on record a number of instances where Indians going to England were presented with medals. For the most part, these medals given in England were any appropriate medal that they had on hand and not necessarily like those sent to this country. I think this will give you the information you desire.

I would very much like to have a photograph or a pencil rubbing of the medal that you mention, as we are getting data on all of these early medals. If perchance the medal is for sale, we might be interested in it.

Very truly yours,

SN:JG

Curator



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*Edward J. Hancy*

*40 Wall Street*  
*New York*

*Telephone Andrews 7900*  
*Cable Address Labellum*

November 10, 1931.

Howland Wood, Esq.—

My dear Sir :

I have your kind favor of the 9th instant, and beg to thank you very much for writing to me on the subject.

My enquiry was made in the interest of a gentleman of Tennessee who has the medal and was curious to know something of its history and so on. He owns lands in a valley of the Great Smoky Mountains, and two or three years ago a ploughman ploughing a field there, which had once been the site of a large Cherokee Indian settlement, turned up the medal referred to, and at the same time a number of arrowheads and some human bones. The surmise is that the spot was the grave of one of the Cherokee Chiefs who visited England in 1762 under the guidance of Lieut. Timberlake; that he received the medal at the hands of the then King, George III, and that it and the other objects were buried with him at some date subsequently to his return to this country.

I was in Tennessee last summer for a number of weeks, heard of the medal and the manner of its discovery and called upon the holder. Being much interested in its history, etc., I took a pencil impression of both faces of it, and enclose it herewith. Perhaps a photograph could be obtained, as I had thought of procuring one for use with an article I am writing on my trip to the region; indeed the gentleman in question had offered to supply me with one. Still,

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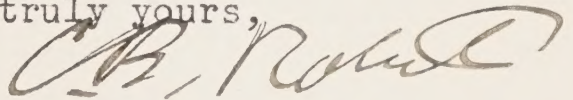
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Cable Address, Labellum*

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after the enclosed impression has served your purpose I should be obliged if you would kindly return it to me in the accompanying stamped and addressed envelope.

Many thanks, indeed, for your letter.

Very truly yours,



(C.B. Roberts)



November 11, 1931.

Mr. C. B. Roberts  
40 Wall Street  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Herewith I am returning the rubbing enclosed in your letter. The piece is identical with one in our collection and a photograph is not necessary as this gives me the information I desire. From your letter, I see that it is only a surmise that he got this medal in England. This fact bothered me in your previous letter. I really think the Cherokee Indian who had this medal received it in this country and that it is one of the thrity that came over here. I beg to thank you for sending the rubbing on.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator